Mobile services in A.P.

1644. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Telecome plans to introduce mobile services in the State during the current year,

(b) if so, whether the State Government has state that instead of concentrating on city and urban areas, the company would be launching its services in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the extent to which mobile services in the rural areas have been successful; and

(d) the extent to which the company has been able to offer the services to rural and backward areas in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir..

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) BSNL is yet to launch its Cellular Mobile services in the State of Andhra Pradesh. As regard basic services operations, the number of fixed lines working in rural/backward areas as on 30.6.2002 are 10,37,366. About 80% of the villages are covered with Village Public Telephone Facility and about 96% of the populations is having access to Telecom facility.

Report of the NASSCOM and MACKINSE on I.T.

†1645. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATON TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware of the report brought by NASSCOM and McKinsey regarding information technology industry;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that contribution of information technology industry in GDP is estimated to be upto seven percent in the coming years; and

(c) if so, by when this percentage of contribution is estimated to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The NASSCOM McKinsey Report 2002 was released in June, 2002.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is estimated that by the year 2008, Indian IT software and services industry will account for 7% of India's GDP.

Laying of optical fibres

1646. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government's direction and policy all the State Governments are implementing the scheme for laying of optical fibres in their respective State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Tamil Nadu is not coperating with private companies who are digging/laying optical fibres there;

(c) if so, the reasons for not granting "Right of Way Permission" by the Central/State Government; and

(d) whether Government would issue suitable directions to the State Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The State Governments are free to formulate their own guidelines and policies for granting 'Right of Way Permission' to the various utility agencies including licensed telecom service providers.